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I must vigorously oppose the Department of Justice settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case, since I feel that the remedies are woefully insufficient.

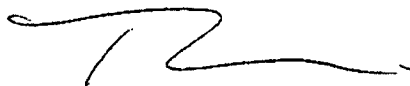
I ask that the Department of Justice and Judge consider the long history of abuse of Microsoft's monopoly, even though this long history may not have been included as part of the trial. The long list of innovative companies and products that have been eliminated, primarily due to Microsoft's monopoly on their operating system, include word processing (Word-Perfect), spreadsheets (Lotus 123), web-browsers (Netscape), etc. It is somewhat ridiculous that Microsoft presents itself as an innovator, when the initial commercial success of these product areas was driven by the aforementioned companies. It is now clear that the demise of these companies was primarily accomplished through monopolistic power in the operating system, and not by any superior innovation at Microsoft.

In light of the unfortunate history of Microsoft in abusing its monopoly, it is imperative that the department of justice seek real remedies that subdivide microsoft into separate units and that provide forced supervision of internal practices, with legal power and sanctions to prevent and penalize future abuses. Too much of the current settlement is vague, leaves much to interpretation, and allows Microsoft to determine its own level of compliance.

The situation is all the more critical as Microsoft enters the internet arena. We cannot afford to have the same monopolistic abuses stifle competition on the internet, since the internet will play a very important role in the economic future of our nation.

It seems to me that the settlement will also encourage future monopolies to abuse their power, when they see that Microsoft got less than a slap on the wrist.

Finally, the government has seemed to be influenced by the financial institutions and investors with great sums of money invested in Microsoft. Unfortunately, the government is not considering the great many investors whose investments were lost due to Microsoft monopolistic practices. What about the people who lost their investments in Lotus 123, Word-Perfect, Netscape, etc? Who will speak for those who were unfairly deprived of their investment and those who were unfairly deprived of their entrepreneurial opportunity? The department of Justice MUST speak for them, loudly.



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